

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claims 51-53 has been replaced by:

51. (Presently Amended) A method implemented in a system comprising a plurality of computers, at least one of which is located remotely from at least one other of said computers and interconnected by a communication system, for conducting a first auction of a first set of items, said first auction conducted in association with a second auction of a second set of items, said first set of items being different from said second set of items, at least two bidders participating in the first auction, the method comprising:

- a) initiating the first auction by identifying the first set of items,
- b) receiving bids from bidders for items in the first set of items using a first computer of said system and communicating at least some of said bids to a second computer of said system which is remote from said first computer via the communication system,
- c) constraining the received bids by accepting only bids which satisfy a constraint based on bids in the second auction,
- d) determining, using the second computer, whether the first auction should terminate,
- e) repeating b), c) and d) until the first auction is terminated, and
- f) assigning the first set of items to bidders based on the bids in force at the time the first auction was terminated.

52. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 51 wherein the first auction occurs at the same time as the second auction.

53. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 51 wherein the first auction occurs after the second auction.

Claims 63-65 have been replaced by:

63. (Presently Amended) A method implemented in a system comprising a plurality of computers, at least one of which is located remotely from at least one other of said computers and interconnected by a communication system, for conducting a first auction of a first set of

items, said first auction conducted in association with a second auction of a second set of items, said first set of items being different from said second set of items, at least one item in the first set having a complementary item in the second set, at least two bidders participating in the first auction, the method comprising:

- a) initiating the first auction by identifying the first set of items,
- b) accepting bids from bidders for items in the first set of items using a first computer of said system and communicating at least some of said bids to a second computer of said system which is remote from said first computer via the communication system, at least one of the bids from one of the bidders conditional on said bidder winning a complementary item in the second auction,
- c) determining, using the second computer, whether the first auction should terminate,
- d) repeating b) and c) until the first auction is terminated, and
- e) eliminating each of the conditional bids which fail to satisfy any of their conditions, and thereafter assigning the first set of items to bidders based on the bids in force subsequent to the eliminating of the conditional bids which fail to satisfy any of their conditions.

64. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein the first auction occurs at the same time as the second auction.

65. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein the first auction occurs after the second auction.

Claims 96, 99 and 100, 101, 103 and 104 have been changed to :

96. (Presently Amended) The system of claim 87 wherein each item in the first set is complementary to an item in the second set.

99. (Presently Amended) A method implemented in a system comprising a plurality of computers, at least one of which is located remotely from at least one other of said computers and interconnected by a communication system, for conducting a first auction of a first set of items and a second auction of a second set of items, said first set of items being different from said second set of items, at least two bidders participating in both the auctions, the method comprising:

- a) initiating the first auction by identifying the first set of items,
- b) initiating the second auction by identifying the second set of items and accepting bids therefor,
- c) receiving bids from bidders for items in the first set of items in the first auction using first computer of said system and communicating at least some of said bids to a second computer of said system which is remote from the first computer via the communication system,
- d) constraining the received bids in the first auction by accepting only bids which satisfy a constraint based on bids for the second set of items in the second auction,
- e) determining, using the second computer, whether the first auction should terminate,
- f) repeating c), d) and e) until the first auction is terminated, and

g) assigning the first set of items to bidders based on the bids in force at the time the first auction was terminated.

100. (Presently Amended) A system for conducting a first auction of a first set of items and a second auction of a second set of items, said first set of items being different from said second set of items, at least two bidders participating in both the auctions, the system comprising:

- a) means for initiating the first auction by identifying the first set of items,
- b) means for initiating the second auction by identifying the second set of items and accepting bids therefor,
- c) means for inputting bids from bidders for items in the first set of items in the first auction,
- d) means for constraining the inputted bids in the first auction by accepting only bids which satisfy a constraint based on bids for the second set of items in the second auction,
- e) means for determining whether the first auction should terminate,
- f) means for repeating c), d) and e) until the first auction is terminated, and
- g) means for assigning the first set of items to bidders based on the bids in force at the time the first auction was terminated.

101. (Presently Amended) A method implemented in a system comprising a plurality of computers, at least one of which is located remotely from at least one other of said computers and interconnected by a communication system, for conducting a first auction of a first set of items and a second auction of a second set of items, said first set of items being different from said second set of items, at least one item in the first set having a complementary item in the

second set, at least two bidders participating in the auctions, the method comprising:

- a) initiating the first auction by identifying the first set of items,
- b) initiating the second auction by identifying the second set of items and accepting bids therefor,
- c) receiving bids from bidders for items in the first set of items using a first computer of said system and communicating at least some of said bids to a second computer of said system which is remote from the first computer via the communication system, at least one of the bids from one of the bidders conditional on said bidder winning a complementary item in the second auction,
- d) determining, using the second computer, whether the first auction should terminate,
- e) repeating c) and d) until the first auction is terminated, and
- f)) eliminating each of the conditional bids which fail to satisfy any of their conditions, and thereafter assigning the first set of items to bidders based on the bids in force at the time the first auction was terminated.

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103. (Presently Amended) A computer system for conducting a first auction of a first set of items and a second auction of a second set of items, said computer system comprising a plurality of computers, at least one of which is located remotely from at least one other of said computers and interconnected by a communication system, said first set of items being different from said second set of items, at least two bidders participating in both the auctions, the computer system:

- a) initiating the first auction by identifying the first set of items,
- b) initiating the second auction by identifying the second set of items and accepting bids therefor,
- c) receiving bids from bidders for items in the first set of items in the first auction using a first computer of said system and communicating at least some of said bids to a second computer of said system which is remote from the first computer via the communication system,
- d) constraining the received bids in the first auction by accepting only bids which satisfy a constraint based on bids for the second set of items in the second auction,
- e) determining in the second computer whether the first auction should terminate,
- f) repeating c), d) and e) until the first auction is terminated, and
- g) assigning the first set of items to bidders based on the bids in force at the time the first auction was terminated.

104. (Presently Amended) A computer system for conducting a first auction of a first set of items and a second auction of a second set of items, said computer system comprising a plurality of computers, at least one of which is located remotely from at least one other of said computers and interconnected by a communication system, said first set of items being different from said second set of items, at least one item in the first set having a complementary item in the second set, at least two bidders participating in the auctions, the computer system:

- a) initiating the first auction by identifying the first set of items,
- b) initiating the second auction by identifying the second set of items and accepting bids therefor,
- c) accepting bids from bidders for items in the first set of items using a first computer of said system and communicating at least some of said bids to a second computer of said system which is remote from the first computer via the communication system, at least one of the bids from one of the bidders conditional on said bidder winning a complementary item in the second auction,
- d) determining in the second computer whether the first auction should terminate,
- e) repeating c) and d) until the first auction is terminated, and
- f) eliminating each of the conditional bids which fail to satisfy any of their conditions, and thereafter assigning the first set of items to bidders based on the bids in force at the time the first auction was terminated.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stanley B. Green on November 07, 2011.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 51-104 are allowable over the art of record as argued in the Appeal Brief filed 9/19/2011.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANTZY POINVIL whose telephone number is (571)272-6797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00AM To 5:30PM..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Frantzy Poinvil/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691

/FP/
November 8, 2011